

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD AT THE RUTHERFORD COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING IN THE AUDITORIUM ON JUNE 6, 2007 AT 4:00 P.M.**

**PRESENT: CHAIRMAN CHIVOUS BRADLEY  
VICE CHAIRMAN PAUL MCINTOSH  
MARGARET HELTON  
CHARLES HILL  
BRENT WASHBURN**

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<b>CALL TO ORDER</b>
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Chairman Bradley called the meeting to order.

<b>BUDGET 2007-2008/BUDGET ORDINANCE/DSS FUND/E911 ADDRESSING FUND/ICC CAPITAL RESERVE FUND/REGISTER OF DEEDS AUTOMATION ENHANCEMENT/GRANT FUND/REAPPRAISAL-MAPPING FUND/WATER-SEWER FUND/SCHOOLS CAPITAL RESERVE FUND/COUNTY BUILDING RESERVE FUND/DEBT SERVICE FUND/TRANSIT FUND/SOLID WASTE FUND/TOURISM FUND</b>
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Manager Condrey presented a compilation of proposed budget numbers submitted by each of the Commissioners separately. Based on the number presented, the tax rates recommended by the Commissioners were between 51.12 and 53.03 cents.

The Commissioners worked their way through the items where their proposed numbers differed, discussing and agreeing on a figure for each item. Items discussed and agreed on included:

- 2 cents of the tax rate to be designated for the long-range building project
- 3.5% cost of living increase to begin in October for county employees
- merit pay (\$68,160) for county employees,
- increase of \$41,023 to recommended amount for ICC,
- no funding for Highway 221 project
- \$25,000 contingency for EDC to be covered by unearned incentives and unspent 2007 budget
- an addition of \$114,952 to the recommended amount budgeted for schools. This was an average of all Commissioners' recommendations.
- 6 months salary for interim IT director to overlap outgoing director
- administrative assistant for Human Resources, Governing Body, and County Manager departments for full year
- EDC secretary for 6 months
- children's librarian, and for 6 months
- IT imaging technician each at full time for 6 months
- two road officers and two detention officers for the sheriff's department,
- all the requested DSS positions for a full year

- new maintenance department position for 9 months
- \$10,000 to the Genealogical Society
- no new funding for Arts Council.

To cover the agreed upon budget, the Commissioners considered a tax rate of 53 cents. Commissioner Hill suggested 52.5 cents. Chairman Bradley did not agree with this since it might mean dipping into the fund balance. He favored caution, since he said Medicaid costs could not be predicted. The Commissioners agreed to the 53 cents.

The Commissioners discussed the value of public meetings in each of the fire districts, which they thought would give the citizens an opportunity to learn important information about their volunteer fire departments. Commissioner Helton made a motion to request each volunteer fire department to hold a public hearing, Vice Chairman McIntosh seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Vice Chairman McIntosh commented that he was proud to be part of the smooth-working budget process. He noted that the tax rate had been reduced one penny last year and 8 cents this time around. He felt that approximately half of the county's population would see a reduction in their tax bill.

Vice Chairman McIntosh made a motion to adopt the budget as presented with special funds. Commissioner Washburn seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved. (A copy of the budget ordinance is typed in the Minute Book.)

#### **MENTAL HEALTH FUNDS**

Manager Condrey pointed out that there are dissolution mental health funds still undesignated and recommended that an ad hoc committee be formed to make suggestions for their use. Susan Hendrick, who is chairman of the LME, has agreed to chair the committee. The Commissioners agreed to this proposal.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Chairman Bradley declared the meeting to be adjourned.

5:29 P.M.     -     Adjournment

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Chairman, Board of Commissioners

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Vice Chairman, Board of Commissioners

Attest:

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Clerk, Board of Commissioners